

Attention: Docket ID Number OPP-2003-0010.

To whom it may concern,

For many years the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, along with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service (jointly the Services), have failed to adequately protect endangered fish, birds and other organism from the harmful effects of pesticides. Now to catch up on the backlog, it appears that EPA and the Services are trying to side step the law instead of fulfilling their collective duty.

It would be irresponsible of the Services to defer to EPA to determine the effects of pesticides on endangered species.

The EPA's track record on protecting endangered species is appalling. Its backlog of pesticides requiring consultation is due to years of non-compliance with ESA. Instead of trying to change the process to protect species, EPA must simply begin to perform its duty and consult with the Services.

Sincerely,

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